

Message Text

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60
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 /084 W
----- 029735

R 150125Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9037
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR BM UR CH
SUBJ: SOVIET CRITICISM OF PRC ACTIVITIES IN BURMA

REF: STATE 6312

1. SOVIET DENUNCIATIONS OF PRC SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS IN BURMA HAVE LONG BEEN FAMILIAR, THOUGH THE BROADCAST QUOTED REFTEL GOES FARTHER THAN MOST IN INTEMPERANCE OF TONE AND SITORTION OF FACTS. WE NOTE THAT THE MOSCOW COMMENTARY MISSTATES THE NATURE OF THE INSURGENCY TO WHICH PRC PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE: IT IS NOT IN FACT AN OVERTLY SEPARATIST MOVEMENT, BUT PRESUMABLY THIS SOUNDS BETTER TO MOSCOW THAN IDENTIFYING IT AS THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY.

2. THERE IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG BOTH SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF GUB THAT PRC (AND ALSO USG) AGENTS HAD A HAND IN THE U THANT FUNERAL DISTURBANCES. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS THEORY WHICH HAS HELPED ENHANCE U.S. (AND TO SOME EXTENT PRC) POPULARITY WITH BURMESE PUBLIC, AND NEEDLESS TO SAY IT HAS NOT

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BEEN SURFACED IN THE BURMESE PRESS. REFERENCES TO IT IN THE

FEDOROV COMMENTARY MUST THEREFORE BE DRAWN FROM SOVIET OFFICIAL REPORTING, OR FROM TASS OR IZVESTIYA BOTH OF WHICH HAVE RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS IN RANGOON.

3. GUB POLICY IS TO SAY LITTLE OR NOTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT PRC SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS; ON THE OTHER HAND, IT PROBABLY IS NOT DISPLEASED BY SOVIET OR OTHER OUTSIDE ATTENTION TO THE SUBJECT. SUCH UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY, AT LEAST WHEN MORE ACCURATE THAN THIS COMMENTARY, MAY HAVE SOME MINOR EFFECT IN DETERRING PRC SUPPORT TO INSURGENTS, AND SOVIET STATEMENTS OF THIS KIND ARE PROBABLY SEEN BY GUB AS IMPLYING AVAILABILITY OF MORE CONCRETE SUPPORT AGAINST PRC PRESSURE WHEN AND IF GUB SEEKS IT.

OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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